METHODS

The 1990 and 2000 censuses were adjusted to July 1 from the April 1 census dates, to match the intercensal estimates, which are as of July 1 of the given year. The 1990 census numbers were adjusted using linear interpolation with the population in 1990 and 2000 as points on the line. The 2000 census numbers were adjusted using extrapolation of the same trend line.

State Population

Because the postcensal estimates produced state totals that were 15,000 less in 1999 than the 2000 census, it was clear that new estimates were needed. The simplest procedure is a straight-line interpolation, which assumes nothing about the data between the endpoints. However, it was decided that the postcensal estimates, which are based on some empirical evidence about population changes, could improve these numbers. Therefore, it was assumed that the postcensal estimates, while incorrect in total numbers, were correct as far as pattern of change.

The method used for the state intercensal totals was to take the yearly difference in the postcensal estimates, divide it by the decade difference in the postcensal estimates and multiply this ratio by the difference between the two census numbers. This process resulted in yearly totals that were somewhat below the straight line for the first two years, increasing more rapidly in the middle of the decade and dipping slightly below the line again in 1998 and 1999.

County Total Population

The county estimates were produced by calculating the proportion of each county to the state for each of the census years (adjusted to July 1). The difference between these proportions was divided by 10. For each year, the proportion was increased by one-tenth. The resulting proportion was multiplied by the state total for the year to produce county totals for the year. These county totals were controlled to the state total and, also, used as controls for both town and age-sex estimates.

Town Population

The town populations were estimated by the same method as the counties. The proportion of each town to its county was calculated for 1990 and 2000. The difference between these proportions was divided by 10. Each year, the proportion was increased (or decreased) by one-tenth. The resulting proportion was multiplied by the appropriate county total for the year to produce town totals. These town totals were then controlled to the county totals.

Age-Sex Distribution

The two sexes were estimated separately in the same manner as the county totals. That is, the proportion that each sex is of its county in 1990 and 2000 was calculated, the difference was divided by 10 and increased (or decreased) by 10 percent each year. These county totals were controlled to the state total. Each single sex age-cohort was estimated in the same manner and controlled to the total for the appropriate county and sex and then controlled to the state totals as well. Thus adding up all people (male and female) in a single age category for every county will yield the total state population for that age cohort.

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